

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USCINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCUSAFE

16TH AF TORREJON

JUSMAAG SPAIN

UNCLAS MADRID 5203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP US

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS--PRESS COMMENT FOLLOWING ROUND 8

REF: STATE 176249

SUMMARY: CONSENSUS OF SPANISH PRESS REPORTS ON ROUND EIGHT IS THAT IT PRODUCED LITTLE. WHILE SOME PROGRESS MADE AT EXPERT LEVEL, NATURE OF DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP STILL UNSETTLED. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRY REPORT BY SPANISH WIRE SERVICE (EFE) THAT BEFORE LEAVING US ROVIRA SAID THAT 3MONTH EXTENSION OF CURRENT AGREEMENT LIKELY, BUT THIS CONTRASTS WITH HIS SATEMENT TO PRESS UPON ARRIVAL IN SPAIN THAT, IF TWO GOVT'S SO DESIRE, NEGOTIATINS COULD WELL BE CONCLUDED BY SEPT 26. END SUMMARY.

1. INITIAL SPANISH PRESS REPORTS FOLLOWING ROUND EIGHT OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS HIGHLIGHTED WIRE SERVICE (EFE) STORY WHICH HAD SPANISH DELEGATIONS'S ROVIRA PREDICTING BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM US A 3MONTH EXTENSION OF 1970 AGREEMENT. ROVIRA ALSO: (A) CLAIMED GREAT PROGRESS
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OVERALL DURING FIRST EIGHT ROUNDS IN LAYING OUT ALTERNATIVES,

POINTING OUT INTERRELATION OF ALL ASPECTS PRECLUDES PARTIAL AGREEMENTS; (B) SAID NEW AGREEMENT MIGHT BE FOR THREE, OR ALTEFNATIVELY FIVE YEARS, BUT NO MEETING OF MINDS YET ON TERM OR ON NUMBER OF INSTALLATIONS; AND (C) DENIED EARLIER PRESS REPORTS THAT SPAIN ASKING TO MANUFACTURE UNDER LICENSE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SUCH AS MISSILES.

2. THIS CONTRASTEPWITH REPORT CARRIED HERE JULY 26 WHICH REPORTS ROVIRA TOLD PRESS UPON ARRIVAL AT MADRID AIRPORT: "IN PRINCIPLE, AND IF THE TWO GOVTs DO NOT DECIDE OTHERWISE, SINCE THIS IS NOT A MATTER FOR THE DELEGATIONS, ALL WILL HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED BEFORE SEPT 26". ON THIS OCCASION, ROVIRA ALSO WAS RATHER MORE OPTIMISTIC IN OTHER RESPECTS, STATING: "WE HAVE ADVANCED CONSIDERABLY ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND HAVE ENTERED DEEPLY INTO THE MILITARY QUESTION. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING WELL AND ON BALANCE THE EIGTH ROUND CAN BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY." HE ADDED: (A) FORM OF AGREEMENT STILL UNSETTLED; (XZL USEFUL WORK ACCOMPLIEGED ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE (HE DECLINED TO PUT DOLLAR FIGURE ON SPANISH QUID LIST, SAYING PRESS REPORTS OF UPWARDS OF \$1 1/2 BILLION INACCURATE SINCE THEY IGNORE AVAILABILITY AND TIME FRAME; SPANISH HAD NOT ATTACHED PRICE FIGURE TO LIST; (C) FINAL AGREEMENT, INCLUDING TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC, BE ADVANTAGEIOUS FOR SPAIN.

3. CARRIED THUS FAR ONLY IN MAJOR MADRID DAILY "ABC" JULY 26 IS REPORT DATELINED NEW YORK QUOTING SPANISH DESK OFFICER AT STATE AS EXPRESSING /BAFFLEMENT/ AT REPORT OF POSSIBLE 3-MONTH EXTENSION. "THIS IS THE FIRST NEWS WE HAVE OF THIS.". HE REPORTEDLY SAID, ADDING THAT LACKINGN943 043:8 3 -,\$ \$843:5 8,*94.-589,, AMBASSADOR MCLLOSKEY COULD NOT COMMENT.

4. ALMOST ALL EARLY REPORTS ON ROUND EIGHT UNDERLINE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THIS ROUND, DESPITE ROVIRA'S APPARENT ATTEMPT TO GLOSS OVER EARLY BREAK-UP OF ROUND. MADRID DAILY"YA", FOR ONE, ADDS THAT DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP STILL IS THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM AND THAT ROUND EIGHT, WHICH FOCUSED ON SPANISH LIST OF DESIRED MATERIAL, SHOWED US SIDE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE PRICE TAG. INADEQUACY OF US RESPONSE, PER WIRE SERVICE "PYRESA," PRODUCED SOME CLAIMS OF "FAILURE"

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OF ROUND. THIS AND OTHER REPORTS ADD, HOWEVER, THAT WORK SCHEDULE IS NOW TO BE ACCELERATED AND THAT TWO SIDES REMAIN OPTIMISTIC.

5. MINOR SPANISH NEWS MAGAZINE "POSSIBLE" WA S FIRST HERE LAST WEEK TO PRINT CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON SPANISH LIST OF DESIRED EQUIPMENT. OTHER ODDS AND ENDS OF SOME INTEREST, ALSO LESS WIDELY CARRIED, ARE (A) CONTINUED COMPLAINTS BY SPANISH PRESS ABOUT LACK OF ACCESS TO

BRIEFINGS ON MADRID ROUNDS; (B) SOME DOUBTS RE POSSIBILITY OF
GETTING US SENATE'S ADVICE AND CONSENT; (C) DENIALS OF RESTON STORY
AT TIME OF ROUND SEVEN THAT SPAIN ASKING MORE "MONEY," WITH
CORRECTION STATING THAT DESIRED QUID IS RATHER IN FORM OF HARDWARE
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; (D) CLAIM THAT GIBRALTAR NOT AN ISSUE IN
NEGOTIATIONS; AND (E) SUGGESTION IN "INFORMACIONES" THAT EASING OF
US TRADE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PART OF ECONOMIC QUID.

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